

## **NEWS**

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### **CDHD: TEST WELLS IN FLOODED AREAS NEAR EAGLE ISLAND STATE PARK**

The Central District Health Department (CDHD) is concerned that flooding along the Boise River, the result of high spring flows and a breach in a levy near Eagle Island State Park, is putting residents in the immediate area at risk of bacterial contamination of their drinking water. For a limited number of homes currently surrounded by standing water and that have their own wells and septic systems, CDHD is recommending residents boil their drinking water or use bottled water, until the standing water around their homes subsides and tests of their wells show no contamination. The area includes homes along Artesian and Trout roads, south of Hatchery Road.

In a broader area not directly impacted by standing water, CDHD is recommending that homeowners arrange to have their well water tested for coliform bacteria. The area of concern is west of Trout Road, east of Linder and between the north and south channels of the Boise River. Residents with their own wells and septic systems are encouraged to call CDHD Environmental Services at 327-7499 and arrange to pick up a sample bottle. CDHD will work with the state lab to have the water tested at no charge to homeowners in the area identified above.

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## **Eagle Flooding – Add One**

Coliform bacteria are microscopic organisms that originate in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are also present in soil and vegetation. Total coliform bacteria are generally harmless; however, their presence in drinking water indicates the possibility that disease-causing bacteria, viruses or parasites (pathogens) are also present in the water. Coliforms indicate that water may be contaminated with sewage or similar wastes.

Boiling water for five minutes will kill most pathogens, including coliforms. Alternatively fresh liquid chlorine bleach containing 5.25% available chlorine (Commonly found in grocery stores for laundry and other household uses.) can be added to a gallon of water on an emergency basis. If the water is clear add 8 drops of bleach: if the water is cloudy add 16 drops. Mix bleach in water thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes before drinking. Do not use scented, 'all fabric' or bleaches with fabric softeners.

Boise River flows are currently at 6000 cfs, down from a previous high of 7500 cfs. The Bureau of Reclamation will begin lowering flows from Lucky Peak Reservoir by 200 cfs a day beginning today, Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>, through Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>, so that by Monday river flows should be at 5000 cfs, well below flood stage.

Private, individual wells are the responsibility of the homeowner. It is recommended that water be tested every year for total coliform bacteria, nitrates, total dissolved solids, and pH levels. If you suspect other contaminants, test for those. Always use a state certified laboratory that conducts drinking water tests.

For more information on flood precautions and response visit the CDHD website at [www.cdhd.idaho.gov](http://www.cdhd.idaho.gov).

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